

African American Reparations Advisory Committee
Health Subcommittee Recommendation
11/2/22

Purpose:

To research, elevate and provide solutions to address the past, present, and future harm to Black people in San Francisco caused by structural racism, barriers to basic healthcare, inhabitable living environments, environmental pollution, community violence and the lack of access to restorative and rehabilitative care.

“Blacks and Hispanics who live in highly segregated and isolated neighborhoods have lower housing quality, higher concentrations of poverty, and less access to good jobs and education. As a consequence, they experience greater stress and have a higher risk of illness and death.” -Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Recommendations:

- **Address and reduce health disparities by improving the social determinants to health**
 - Build and/or adequately resource neighborhood-based clinics in the densely populated Black communities
 - Mandatory training and engagement with culturally responsive approaches, hiring, practices and systems of care
 - Create free educational pathways to recruit, train and retain Black health care professionals with stipends/student loan forgiveness and or affordable housing for Black Doctors and Registered Nurses working in SF's Black neighborhoods
 - Provide funding to San Francisco Public schools, Black run churches and all other community spaces to increase wellness and nutrition education and offerings
 - Investigate and hold health and wellness institutions liable for the racial trauma and harm perpetuated requiring them to be financially accountable and mandated to contribute to SF's reparations fund
 - Create safer public spaces through improvements in the built environment by addressing the social determinants of health
 - Create, improve and allocate Black spaces that rebuild and revitalize:
 - Social relationships
 - Social networks
 - Infrastructure of social support
 - Create a specific Black Health Plan to address disparities across areas of wellness focusing on illness preventions, culture specific treatment modalities and violence prevention
 - Review, audit and improve city departments and policies responsible for community health and ensure public, philanthropic and city funding that is allocated toward Black health is appropriately and equitably spent

- Revitalization of SF Public Housing Developments to ensure safe, updated, liveable housing accommodations •
- Declare community violence as a public health crisis and fund resources to address it accordingly
- Reduce the number of liquor stores and fast food restaurants in the Black community while providing free access to nutritious food
- Thorough clean up of the naval shipyard
- **Acknowledge the insult, assault and intergenerational harm caused by the City and County of San Francisco**
 - An official acknowledgement from the city and county of San Francisco on the historic failure to adequately improve the social determinants of health for Black San Franciscans due to structural racism which has had lasting and generational impacts to the mental, physical and economic wellbeing for Black residents.
 - Publically commit to the restoration for the ways that racism has caused insult to Black humanity and manifested in both visible and invisible trauma through the means of compensation, restoration and rehabilitation.
- **Reduce the stress burden endured by Black San Franciscans**
 - Provide reparation funds to Black San Franciscans to alleviate the strain of poverty
 - Provide free mental health, prenatal care, and rehabilitation treatment to all Black San Franciscans living below the poverty line, victims of violent crimes, previously incarcerated Black San Franciscans, high crime area residents and substance abuse users
 - Provide free testing for residents near environmentally toxic environments and compensation for those testing positive for illness due to exposure

“Poverty limits access to healthy foods and safe neighborhoods and that more education is a predictor of better health. Differences in health are striking in communities with poor social determinants of health such as unstable housing, low income, unsafe neighborhoods, or substandard education.”
 -Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Facts According to the [Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\) 2022:](#)

- The largest proportion of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco are Black or African American (37%) even though they comprise only 6% of the population overall.
- Per capita income in for Black people in San Francisco averages 39K while white San Franciscans average 99K
- In San Francisco, surveyed Black communities report the highest percentage of serious psychological distress at an average of 26%
- Overall life expectancy is high in San Francisco, with the typical resident living to 83 years. For African Americans it is 73.1%

Facts According to the [San Francisco Health Disparities Dashboard](#)

- Over the past 30 years the prevalence of diabetes among Black/African Americans quadrupled.
- Black/African Americans are 70 percent more likely to develop diabetes than Whites.
- In San Francisco, rates of hospitalization are 3-6 times higher and rates of death are 2-3 times higher among African Americans compared to all other race/ethnicities.
- Residents in the eastern zip codes (94102, 94110, 94115, 94124, and 94130) are more likely to be hospitalized due to diabetes than those living elsewhere in San Francisco.
- The hospitalization rates due to hypertension or heart failure for Black/African Americans are 3-5 times higher than all other races.
- Hospitalization and emergency room visit rates due to cardiovascular disease are higher among residents in the southeast half of San Francisco.

Facts According to the [SF Department of Public Health's 2018 Black Health Report](#)

- Asthma is also exacerbated by stress, which is again worse for poor families, and for those experiencing racism. The prevalence of asthma among B/AA adults (13.9%) in San Francisco is more than twice that for Whites (5.0%). Black/ African American middle school students (29.9%) and high school students (37.6%) students were more likely than their classmates to have asthma. -2018 Black/African-American Health Report, DPH/
- 47% of B/AA children in San Francisco live below the federal poverty level, in comparison to only 3% of White children.
- Black/African Americans have the highest mortality rate for nine of the top ten causes of death in San Francisco including the following 7:
 - Asthma
 - Cancer
 - Cardiovascular Health
 - Diabetes
 - Hepatitis
 - Maternal and Infant Health
 - Sexual Health